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ABSTRACT

This book addresses the issue of angry campus confrontations over issues of race, gender, and ethnicity, and more broadly, the dilemma of the college's and university's ability and desire to attain the goals of liberal education while also desiring to be "politically correct." It is noted that student activists have split the university on moral grounds, charging that universities are "structurally" racist, sexist, homophobic, and class biased. It is argued that, while generally unrestrained by administration and unopposed by senior faculty, junior faculty activists, in their eagerness to create a multicultural community, demand and receive changes in admissions and other policies on the basis of race and gender categories, rather than intellectual merit. Case histories examine the admissions policies of the University of California at Berkeley, the multiculturalism at Stanford University, the roots of protest at Howard University, racial incidents at the University of Michigan, the subversion of academic standards at Duke University, and the teaching of race and gender at Harvard University. Each case is used to document the counter-productive effects of preferential treatment and official double standards on minorities themselves, and argues that university policies designed to foster pluralism, diversity, tolerance, and multiculturalism in fact promote ignorance, intolerance, and racism. Finally, it is noted that the rhetorical excesses and coercive tactics of the "politically correct" have done much to drive reflective liberals into the ranks of a conservative opposition. Contains an index and reference notes for each chapter. (GLR)

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